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TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st December, 1961.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) Part-time Medical Officer of Health:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) Building Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:

W.P. ROBERTS, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

(c) Public Health Inspector:

A.L. SANDERS, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

(d) Meat Inspectors:

G.F. PENBERTHY, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Official address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health:-

Council Offices,
The Great House,
St. Peter Street,
TIVERTON, Devonshire.

Telephone No. Tiverton 2355.

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TO THE

TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area:	114,139 acres
Population:	20,570 (mid 1961 estimate)
Rateable Value:	£194,338
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:	792 10 0
Social Conditions:	Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are, on the whole, good.
Slaughtering Industries:	The principal slaughterhouse in in the district is:- Lloyd Maunder Ltd. Tiverton Junction, Willand. In addition there are 6 other small private slaughterhouses. (See subsequent statement on Slaughterhouses).

Other Main Industries:

Wiggins, Teape & Co., Paper Manufacturers, Bradninch.
Reed & Smith Ltd., Paper Manufacturers, Silverton.
" " , Cullompton.
Culm Leather Dressing Co., Cullompton.
Fox Bros. & Co. Ltd., Weavers, Cullompton.
" " , Uffculme.
Dreven & Brown, Glove Manufacturers, Cullompton.
The Tanneries, Cullompton.
John Heathcoat, Net Mending, Cullompton.
Wilts United Dairies, Milk Factory, Hemyock.
Dulverton Sawmills, Morebath.
Bramber Engineering Works, Willand.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M	F
Live Births	312	142	170

Rate per 1,000 population ... 15.5 (Uncorrected)
16.4 (Corrected)

Illegitimate Live Births ... 5.1 per cent. of total live births

	Total	M	F
Still Births	7	3	4

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 15.1

Total Live and Still Births ... 319

Infant Deaths under one year of age ... 4

Infant Mortality Rates:-

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ... 12.8

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 16.0

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... Nil

Neo-natal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ... 3.4

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) ... 3.4

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 25.5

Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy and child-birth (from sepsis Nil; from other causes Nil)

Deaths from Congenital Malformations 4

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... Nil

	Total	M	F	(Crude Death Rate per 1,000 ... 12.2
Deaths	253	127	126	

Corrected Death Rate ... 10.9 per 1,000 population

It might be interesting to the Council to compare the foregoing statistics with those in an old annual report made by my predecessor for 1923. In that year the Birth Rate was 18.65; the Death Rate 12.35 and Deaths of Infants under 1 year 39.75 per 1,000 births. Deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 14 and new cases of Tuberculosis numbered 19. Three women died in childbirth during 1923 out of a total of 287 births. (The figure to-day is about one death in 2,000 births).

It is surprising to find that, in spite of the vast strides in medical science and improvements in housing and sanitation, the death rate was very much the same in 1923 as it is to-day. Coronary thrombosis, apoplexy and cancer have filled the gap left by the improved figures for tuberculosis, infantile mortality and notifiable diseases.

EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR

Deaths from Cancer during 1961 were 55. This compares with previous years as follows:- 1949 - 40; 1950 - 43; 1951 - 32; 1952 - 35; 1953 - 39; 1954 - 40; 1955 - 44; 1956 - 40; 1957 - 39; 1958 - 60; 1959 - 41; 1960 - 47.

	Males	Females	Alteration from 1960
Stomach	7	8	+6
Bronchus & Lung	9	3	+4
Breast	-	2	0
Uterus	-	3	-1
Others	15	8	-1
	31	24	Total of 55

GASTRIC CANCER

Reports were received on samples of potatoes sent to the University of North Wales. These proved to be inconclusive, but investigation is still proceeding.

I publish a chart showing the incidence of gastric cancer in the various parishes during the past 14 years.

Population	Parish	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	TOTALS 1948 - 1961
1614	Bampton							1				1	1	2	2	7
211	Bickleigh						1									1
1767	Bradninch	1			1	1		2			1				4	10
699	Burlescombe	1							1			1				3
96	Butterleigh			1												1
143	Cadbury															-
165	Cadeleigh															-
165	Clayhanger															-
461	Clayhidon					1								1		2
432	C. Morchard		1								1					2
3377	Cullompton	4	4	1	1	1	3	2	5	4	4	2		2	3	36
716	Culmstock								1						1	2
1281	Halberton				1					1		2	1	1	1	7
1065	Hemyock							1						1	1	3
179	Hockworthy															-
489	H. Rogus		1		1							1				3
149	Huntsham											1				1
670	Kentisbeare						1			1					1	3
145	Loxbeare					1										1
364	Morebath			2												2
359	Oakford															-
669	S. Peverell			1			2	2						1		6
1274	Silverton			2			1	2	1	1	1				1	9
260	Stoodleigh															-
135	Templeton										1					1
701	Thorverton					1	1	2	1				1	1		7
1688	Uffculme					1	1		1	1		1				5
302	Uplowman															-
323	Washfield															-
808	Willand			1								1			1	3
	TOTALS	6	6	8	4	6	10	12	10	8	8	10	3	9	15	115
12460	Tiverton Borough	1	3	4	2	2	7	3	3	1	2	4	5	10	7	54

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. NURSING IN THE HOME - HOME HELP SERVICE. Cases are dealt with by direct application from the District Nurses or Health Visitors to the County Office.

2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES. The District Nurses, of whom there are 16, act in this capacity.

3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as previously and also at the Pathological Department of the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no major change during the year with regard to legislation in force throughout the area.

5. HOSPITAL SERVICES. Owing to death and retirement, the district hospital has lost two of the surgical S.H.M.O's from the staff. This has reduced the surgical coverage to the district below danger level. It is believed, however, that this serious defect in the surgical services will be terminated in 1962. In the meantime, many surgical emergencies are referred to the Exeter Hospitals.

   The Medical and Geriatric services have been greatly improved by the appointment of a Consultant Physician who divides his time between Tiverton and Exeter. It is now possible for a resident in the district to see a Consultant Physician in Tiverton without the necessity of losing a day's work by going to Exeter, as was previously the case.

6. MATERNITY CASES. Accommodation for maternity cases is inadequate with the result that cases requiring hospitalisation are sometimes referred elsewhere. Doctors in the district are in the habit of referring their obstetric emergencies to Tiverton Hospital, where we are fortunate in having a member of the staff who is an M.R.C.O.G. Were this not the case, many emergencies would have to travel to Exeter, which I consider is too far for safety.

7. AGED SICK. Improvement in the County Welfare Service has eased our problems in this direction, but our hospital beds are still cluttered up with the type of patient who would be better dealt with at much less expense in a County Hostel.

8. SMALLPOX. In view of the recent outbreak in Wales, it is a disquieting thought that the nearest smallpox expert resides at Weymouth. I consider it essential that there should be one based on Exeter.

SALMONELLA INFECTION

An outbreak of salmonella infection ocurred in a hatcheries in the district and this was investigated in conjunction with the veterinary authorities. Fifteen of the employees had samples of faeces taken and, of these, three were found to be positive. The employees concerned were excluded from actual contact with the eggs and the fowls. At the suggestion of Dr. Moore, of the Public Health Laboratory, a series of samples were taken from slaughtermen working in Lloyd Maunder's chicken department and other slaughterhouses in the district; all these samples proved to be negative. By the end of the year the trouble had completely subsided.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1961 giving age incidence.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diptheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Para Typhoid	Dysentery	Meningococcal infection	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas
Under 1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	4	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	11	17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	1	-	9	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 years	3	-	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	4	-	39	85	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	1	-	12	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 & over	-	-	-	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Age Unknown	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	-	89	178	26	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

TUBERCULOSIS.. New cases and Mortality during 1961.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 & over	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925. No action was taken during the year

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925, Section 62. No action was taken during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Schemes completed during 1961.

During the year the Uffculme scheme, including the solids diverter, taking in the Corks Farm area has been completed. A scheme is also being carried out for the elimination of infiltration water from the sewers and will be completed in 1962.

A small preliminary scheme at Silverton has been carried out and completed. This is part of the main scheme and has been put in at an early date, in order to obviate the flooding of two houses in School Road.

A small scheme (being part of the trunk sewer) has been carried out in advance of the main scheme at Cullompton, in order to eliminate infiltration water and to enable more accurate gaugings to be taken of the flow to assist our engineers in their design calculations.

Schemes approved by the Ministry

Burlescombe	The final scheme was submitted to the Ministry and approval was given early in 1962. The consultants are now inviting tenders. The total estimated cost is £49,000.
Holcombe Rogus	The final scheme was submitted to the Ministry and approval was given early in 1962. The consultants are now inviting tenders. The total estimated cost is £39,000.

Schemes in course of preparation

Cullompton	This scheme has been in course of preparation since 1954. The estimated cost at that time was £82,000. Now that the town plan for Cullompton has been prepared, the consultants have been able to carry out various modifications to their original scheme, taking into account the fact that Messrs. Sellwoods Tannery effluent will have to be dealt with. It is hoped that the final scheme will be submitted to the Ministry during 1962.
Hemyock	Messrs. Harvey McGill & Hayes are hoping to finalise this scheme during 1962, in order that it can be submitted to the Ministry.
Silverton	The final scheme has now been submitted to the Ministry for approval. It is hoped that this scheme will be started during 1962.

Priority list for other parishes

The order of priority has been revised during the year, as our consultants intimated that they could get on faster if some of the smaller schemes could be brought forward. Taking into account Public Health nuisances which have occurred as the result of unsatisfactory sewerage arrangements during recent years, the revised order of priorities is as follows:-

1. Ashill
2. Butterleigh
3. Cruwys Morchard (Nomansland))
   Cruwys Morchard (Pennymoor))
4. Hemyock (As already mentioned it is hoped that the Hemyock Scheme will be submitted to the Ministry during 1962.
5. Thorverton
6. Bampton / Shillingford
7. Huntsham
8. Bradninch
9. Kentisbeare
10. Blackborough
11. Stoodleigh
12. Clayhidon
13. Halberton - Ash Thomas

Maintenance of existing sewers and sewage disposal works.

During the year, an extra man has been taken on the maintenance staff. Mr. Stoneman, the foreman, is on the telephone and there is always someone available (including week-ends) to attend to urgent work on sewerage systems. Small septic tanks and treatment plants in the outlying districts are desludged and emptied regularly by the Contractors, Messrs. C.W. Harrisons. These are also regularly maintained.

WATER SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board is responsible for supplying the District with water.

WATER SAMPLING (PRIVATE SUPPLIES AND WELLS)

Details of samples taken by the department during 1961 are given below:-

Parish	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total Taken
BAMPTON ...	4	-	4
BICKLEIGH ...	-	1	1
BURLESCOMBE ...	1	1	2
BUTTERLEIGH ...	1	-	1
CADBURY ...	3	-	3
CADELEIGH ...	1	-	1
CLAYHANGER ...	1	-	1
CLAYHIDON ...	1	-	1
CRUWYS MORCHARD...	4	2	6
CULLOMPTON ...	-	1	1
CULMSTOCK ...	1	-	1
HEMYOCK ...	1	1	2
HOCKWORTHY ...	1	-	1
HOLCOMBE ROGUS ...	-	7	7
HUNTSHAM ...	1	-	1
KENTISBEARE ...	1	-	1
LOXBEARE ...	1	-	1
MOREBATH ...	3	10	13
OAKFORD ...	4	-	4
SAMPFORD PEVERELL	3	-	3
SILVERTON ...	1	-	1
TEMPLETON ...	5	4	9
UFFCULME ...	1	-	1
UPLOWMAN ...	1	1	2
WASHFIELD ...	2	1	3
	42	29	71

In the case of farm supplies, the advice of the Water Supplies Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is asked for when necessary.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

The only public swimming bath in the district is situated at the Old Well Roadhouse, Waterloo Cross, Uffculme. The size of the bath is 75 feet by 20 feet. The swimming bath is open from May to September and during this period weekly samples of the water are taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. At the beginning of the season the bath is completely filled with water from a nearby spring.

The water is then recirculated through a filter and hand chlorinated. There is also a continuous flow of spring water into the bath. Although the water has an objectionable appearance during hot weather, bacteriological examinations of samples of the water have all proved satisfactory. The swimming bath is used by children attending the County Schools at Uffculme and Cullompton and also Bradfield Special School.

Although this water is efficiently chlorinated, I feel that steps should be taken to get main water laid on so that the water could be changed more regularly. However, this is a matter for the North Devon Water Board.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Premises inspected or subject of inspection	No. of inspections
Dairies (other than dairy farms)	22
Bakehouses	31
Shops and Food premises	142
Knackers' yards	42
Rodent control	137
Building Byelaws and Town & Country Planning	1,272
Petroleum storage installations	221
Caravan sites	61
Hides and skin stores	12
Public Houses	9
Public Conveniences	116
Private water supplies	61
Drainage works	531
Cattle markets	3
Infected diseases	57
Ice cream	7
Refuse tips	72
Refuse complaints investigated	49
Slaughterhouses	372
Sewage works	285
Smoke abatement	Nil
Nuisances and complaints investigated	161
Disinfestations (Infectious diseases and verminous)	29
Schools	22
Factories and workshops etc.	43
Housing inspections relating to improvement grants	298
Housing inspections relating to Rent Act, 1957, letting of Council Houses, Slum Clearance and Housing Act, 1954.	428

CARAVAN, MOVEABLE DWELLING & CAMPING SITES

and Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Total number of sites licensed at the end of 1961:- 11

Each site also has the benefit of a planning permission and this number includes a site for a maximum of 10 caravans at the Old Well Roadhouse, Waterloo Cross, Burlescombe.

In addition there are sites for tourists' caravans at:-

The Wishing Well Cafe, Bampton
Little Copse Filling Station, Cullompton

which are exempt from Local Authority controls, the Caravan Club of Great Britain having granted their form of licence to the sites.

FACTORIES ACTS

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	44	9	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	107	26	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises)	Nil	8	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	151	43	Nil	Nil

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	7	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) (a) Insufficient	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	12	12	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

	Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc. Cleaning and washing	21	-	-	-	-	-
Field Coils	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	21	-	-	-	-	-

BUILDING BYELAWS AND RELEVANT SECTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 and TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1947

	Deposited	Approved	Rejected or withdrawn
Plans and applications in respect of buildings and other development, and applications under the Control of Advertisements Regulations 1948 and 1960	507	466	41

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 (Sections 13, 14, and 16)

(a) Ice-cream premises:

(i) No. of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream during the year: 3

(ii) Total number of premises so registered: 91

(b) Bakeries:

No new bakeries were registered during the year. Informal action under the Food Hygiene Regulations secured improvements and a standard of cleanliness.

(c) Fried fish premises:

No new fish frying establishments were registered during the year.

(d) Egg packing stations:

No action has been necessary.

(e) Butchers' shops:

No action has been necessary.

Food Premises:

Bakehouses:	14
Butchers' shops:	27
Fried Fish shops:	6
Egg packing premises:	6
No. of cafes etc.	79

Food Hygiene Regulations:

Implementation of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations has continued during the year. There has been no necessity for prosecution in any instance.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle (except cows)	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
Number killed	2206	174	66,682	82,323	1535
Number inspected	"	"	"	"	"
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	3	5	226	285	74
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	521	84	3854	9588	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	23.75	51.15	6.12	11.99	6.77
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	6	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	3263	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.09	-	-	3.97	-
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	53	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refigeration	53	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat and offal condemned during the year:-

	Tons	Cwt.	Qr.	lb.
Tuberculosis	19	9	-	8
Other diseases	73	1	1	25
TOTAL	92	10	2	5

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954:

29 licenses to slaughter animals were granted or renewed during the year.

Knackers' Yards

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district, this being situated at Higher Kiln, Bampton.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

At 31st December 1961 7 private slaughterhouses were licensed and in use in the district.

The appointed day for the application of The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958 and The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 to all slaughterhouses in the Council's district is 1st January 1962 and after that date it is expected that the number of slaughterhouses licensed as being fit for use under these Regulations will decrease to 4, these being:

Lloyd Maunder Ltd., Tiverton Junction, Willand
J. Veysey & Son, 33, Fore Street, Cullompton
N.M. Western, 24, Fore Street, Silverton
G.A. Sanders, Exeter Road, Silverton

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Number of Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) registered at 31st December 1961: 11

LICENSING OF PREMISES FOR THE STORAGE OF PETROL

Number of premises licensed during 1961:- 156

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of applications for improvement grants made by the owners of dwellinghouses increased during the year. The position at 31st December 1961 was:-

	No. of dwellings
Grant applications approved:	
Discretionary Grants:	11
Standard Grants:	57
	68
Total grant applications approved during the period from 1949 to 31st December 1961:	243

I am indebted to the Officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.